クレの婚

CLAIRE KOMA

Volume 11

Presented by

NON

構成 Tezuka DAI

ハレ婚。

Hare Kon

Volume

11

Presented by

NON

構成

Tezuka DAI

Volume.10

『ハレ婚』とは!?

「ハーレム結婚」の略称で、一夫多妻で結婚すること。北つばめ市長が命名。

Volume 11

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YUZU

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

OH

RYUU-CHAN'S LOOKING FOR YOU?

TEE HEE♡ SEEMS HE'S REALLY INTERESTED♡

FOR MISUZU-CHAN, ACTUALLY♡

JUST WHAT MAGIC DID YOU USE?

……

EXCUSE US...

WELCOME

ズ
STARE
ン
!
TL Note: Box says Piano Picture Book. Teach!
P... PIANO
FUN
D... DADDY!

.....

.....

POP

MIKU -CHAN!

HOW CUTE...

GIMME

YOU'RE PECKING!!!

I--- WANT--- MO-- NEY---

SO--- LET'S--- DO--- THAT---♪

THEY'RE NOT BEANS!!!

PECK♪

PECK♪

PECK- ECK♪

HEART PECK- PECK

54

YOU'RE SO CUTE! HOW OLD ARE YOU?

NICELY DONE

MIKU -CHAN?

!?

SHE'S SCARY...

91

SHE'S NOT SCARY AT ALL, HUH. ISN'T SHE NICE?

U FU FU...

Ha ha...

I'M SO SORRY, PLEASE EXCUSE ME CHILD...

AH HA HA HA... NOT AT ALL...

THAT MIKU, SHE WAS SO HAPPY TO LEARN RYUUNOSUKE-SAN IS A PIANIST.

SHE LONGS FOR A DAD, DOESN'T SHE?

FOR NOW SHE HAS TO MAKE DO WITH A TOY.

BUT

OH, SO MIKU-CHAN LIKES PIANOS?

YES

SO MUCH SO SHE WANTS TO TAKE LESSONS...

OH, MY, MY...

Hmmmm

.....

OKAY!

TAKE IN MIKU-CHAN?

WON'T IT BE GREAT IF WE

OH?

WHY THIS AGAIN?

I ALWAYS THOUGHT... THAT A HARE-KON WAS A SHITTY SYSTEM FOR BASTARDS WHO JUST WANTED WOMEN TO WAIT ON THEM.

BUT IT DOESN'T FEEL THAT WAY TODAY!

YES YOU DID.

AT LEAST THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT.

IF WE COULD BRING HAPPINESS TO SOMEONE

YOU SIMPLE-MINDED GOODY-TWO-SHOES

NOW, NOW.

AFTER ALL, MIKU-CHAN IS A NICE KID AND SHE'S CUTE, AND...

THAT'S FINE.

KOHARU -CHAN'S HAD A CHANGE OF HEART IS ALL.

WHAT?

HUH?

I'M SHOCKED.. YOU REALLY ARE BEYOND HELP...

I WONDER ABOUT HER...

SO, YOU'VE DECIDED IT'LL BE THAT PERSON?

SHE'S JUST THE KIND OF PERSON YOU THINK SHE IS

I KNOW

MISUZU-SAN ISN'T THAT KIND OF PERSON

SOMETHING ABOUT HER REEKS OF SUSPICION.

IT'LL BE OKAY... I HAVE AN IDEA

YOU DID YOUR BEST, MIKU

THANKS TO YOU WE HAVE A SHOT AT SUCCESS

WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO LIVE A GOOD LIFE

TOMORROW AT LAST

I'LL BE ABLE TO BUY YOU SOME NEW WESTERN CLOTHES

SHHHHH

WE MIGHT EVEN GET TO EAT MEAT EVERY DAY!

.....

THAT WOMAN WITH THE GLASSES IS SIMPLY TOO OBVIOUS!!!

TOMORROW LEAVE EVERY-THING TO MOMMY!

I'LL TAKE AND STAB 'EM WITH THE FINISHING BLOW♡

...

USING HER OWN CHILD TO BUY SYMPATHY

DOESN'T IT FEEL LIKE SHE'LL GO TO ANY LENGTH?

A DESPERATE WOMAN LIKE THAT

IS NO GOOD...

OH, DID I PUT YOUR MOOD OFF?

I'M SO SORRY

ABOUT THAT

splish

OH...

GOOD EVENING

DESPERATE?

SO I'M NOT ALLOWED

TO FEEL

YOU TRYING TO WIN?

I'M NOT GONNA LOSE TO A WOMAN LIKE THAT.

...

HUH? WHAT'S WITH THAT COMPOSURE?

WE'LL EXPOSE EVERYTHING ABOUT YOU.

IS A *POWERFUL* WITCH, AFTER ALL

YOUR MOMMY

M'OKAY, JUST AS PLANNED.

OSSU!

MIII-KUUU -CHAN!

MORNING!

NUR

I'M NOT A GORILLA!

GORILLA -NEE-SAN...

DID THE HOT SPRING FEEL NICE?

...

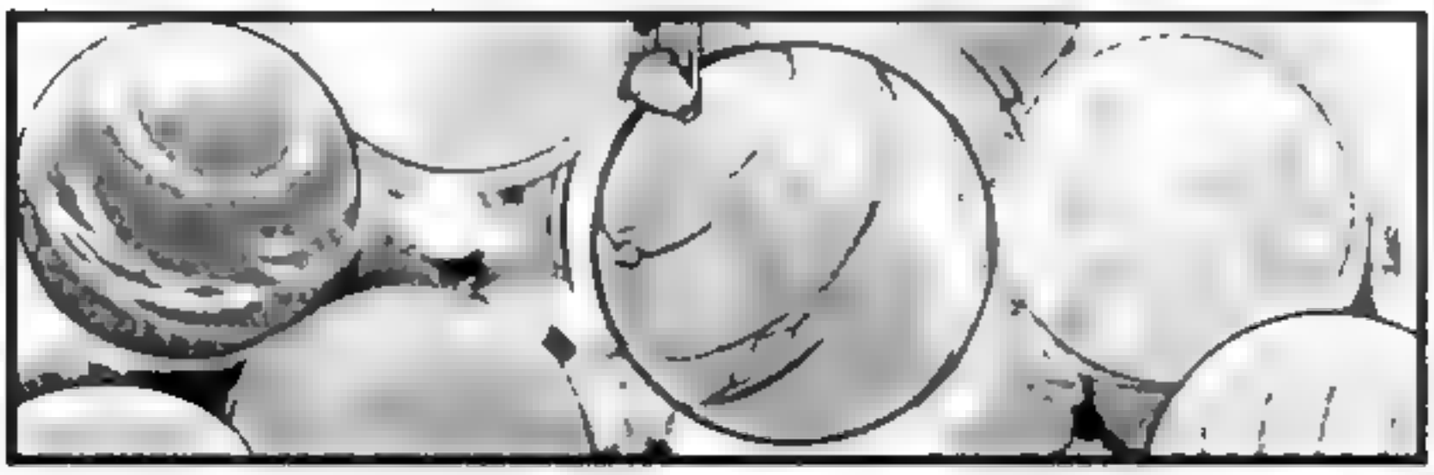
SLEEP WELL?

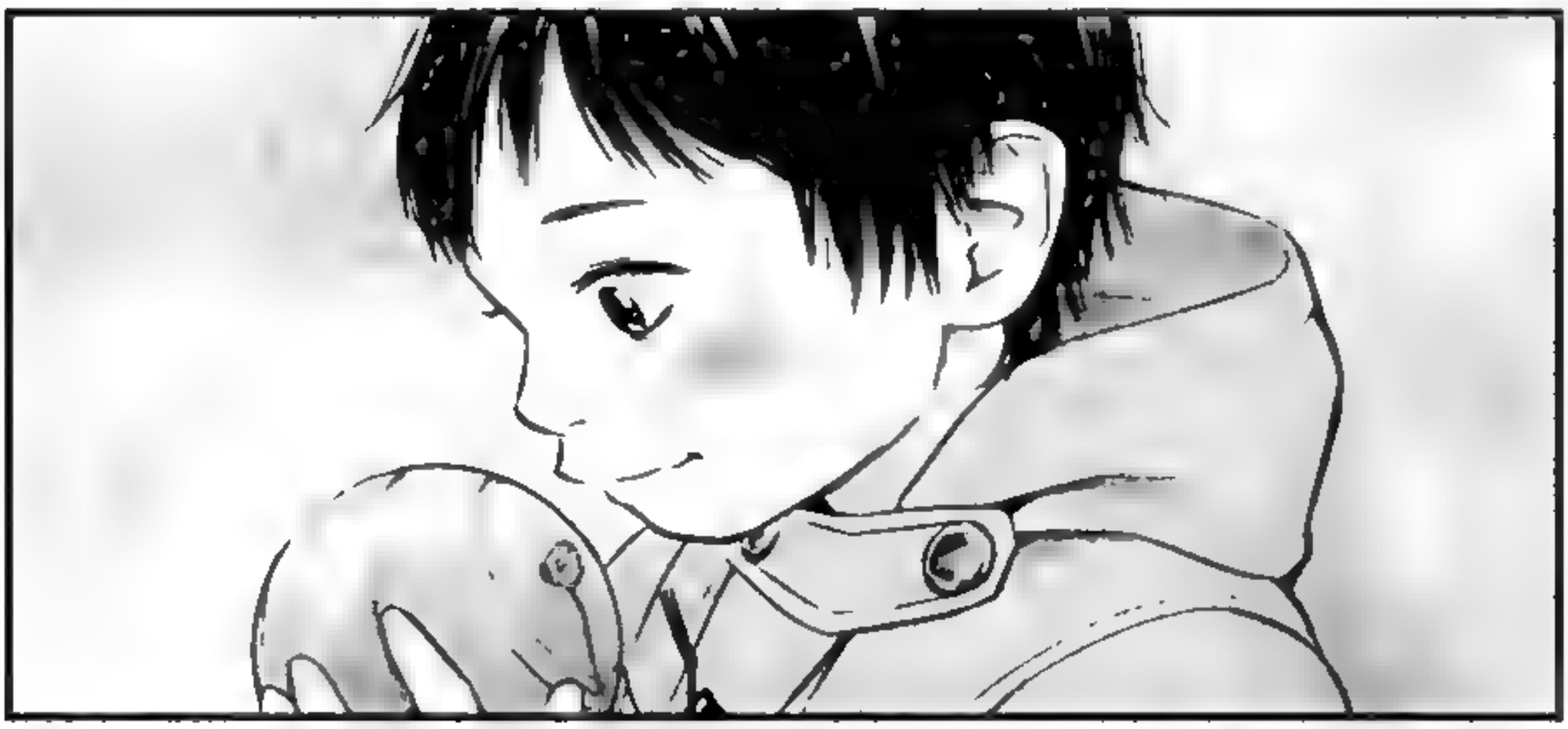
I'M MIKU -CHAN'S PERSONAL STAFFER FOR TODAY,

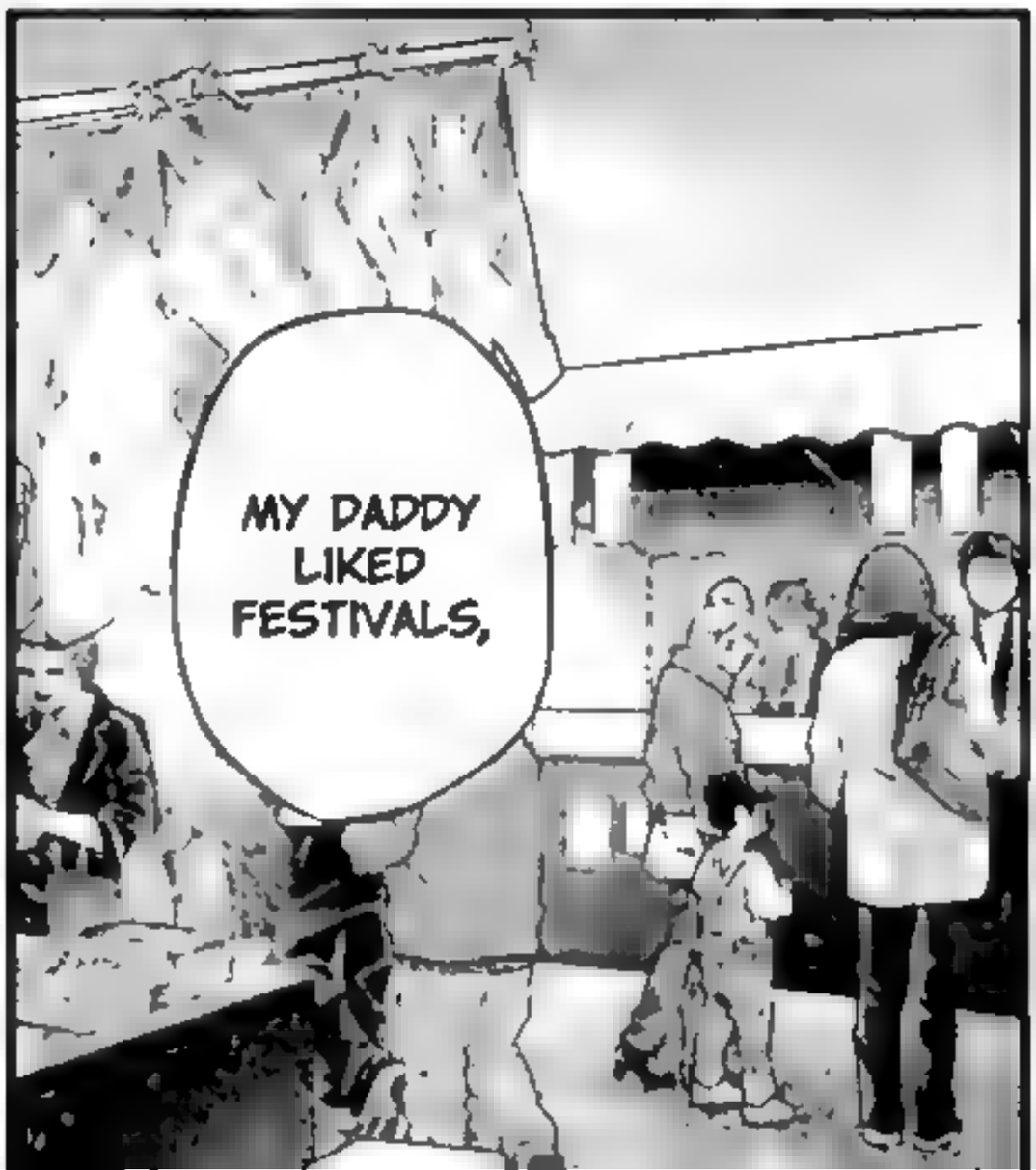
BY THE MAYOR'S AUTHOR-ITY...

I'M KOHARU!

SO, IF YOU LIKE, WE CAN-






MY DADDY LIKED FESTIVALS,

THOUGH HE'S ALREADY PASSED AWAY.

MMM...

A NEW DADDY STARTING TODAY.

YOU MIGHT JUST HAVE...

dash

THE PROBLEM IS...

!

THE MOST IMPORTANT THING

IS MIKU-CHAN'S FEELINGS.

WHY?

DON'T ASK.

HUH?

FOR THAT, WE'LL HAVE KOHARU-CHAN LOOK INTO WHAT MIKU-CHAN REALLY THINKS.

LOOK... INTO?

EVEN SO, IT DOESN'T HAVE TO BE THAT COMPLICATED.

Can't do what you can't do

JUST GO ALONG WITH WHATEVER SHE WANTS TO DO...

TOMORROW HAVE YOURSELF A DAY-LONG DATE WITH MIKU-CHAN.

KOHARU-CHAN, YOU'RE... WELL, GET ACROSS TO HER THAT YOU'RE KIND OF ANNOYING BUT NOT THAT BAD A PERSON.

WHAT'S THAT MEAN?

GOT IT!

ALL TOO EASY♥

IT'S TOO TRICKY FOR YUZU OR I TO DO...

YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN DO IT.

!

YOU CAN MAKE FRIENDS WITH MIKU-CHAN... RIGHT?

NOT THAT I'M AGAINST THIS,

BUT WHY HER? ISN'T THERE SOME-ONE BETTER?

HUHHH?
HOW COME?

SHE IS SOMEONE THE DATE FAMILY NEEDS RIGHT NOW.

A HUNCH.

HUNCH?

WHAT'S IMPORTANT IS RIGHT NOW!

RYUU'S INTUITION IS AMBIGUOUS, BUT...

dashing

WAIT UUUUUP!!

AS A SUBSTITUTE NURSERY STAFFER, I CAN'T AFFORD TO LOSE SIGHT OF HER!

SHE'S GOT SOME PRETTY GOOD LEGS ON HER...

!

DAMN, SHE'S QUICK!

WHERE'D SHE GO?

Hold it!!!

SOMEONE LIKE HER IS HERE?

HUH..

SHE'S A BEAUTY..

YUZU-SAN!

64

HELLO THERE.

SO YOU'RE ON THE ATTACK---

THE FOOD WAS SO DELICIOUS I FELT RIGHT AT HOME.

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR LAST NIGHT!

UM... ARE RYUU-SAN AND KOHARU-SAN TOGETHER?

I THOUGHT I HAD TO PUT A LITTLE EFFORT INTO IT.

YOU LOOK REALLY NICE TODAY. I DIDN'T REALIZE YOU WERE SO PRETTY.

AND THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR COMING♡

GOT A MINUTE?

EVERYONE HAS THEIR OWN AFFAIRS TO TEND TO♡

SO I WAS LOOKING FOR YOU—

AND THERE'S THIS TIIINY LITTLE THING I'D LIKE TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT.

YES...

...

IT'S HUGE...

64

ISN'T IT AMAZING?

IT MARCHES AROUND THE CITY FOR THE OFUNE-FESTIVAL ONCE EVERY FIVE YEARS.

I WANT TO SEE THE FESTIVAL...

YOU CAN SEE IT,

AS IT SEEMS RYUU-CHAN HAS DECIDED ON YOU.

64

IT'S TRUE.

HUH?

ARE YOU SERIOUS?

WHICH IS PROBLEMATIC.

HOWEVER... EVEN THOUGH I SAY THAT, THE DATE FAMILY IS A PLACE FOR SAFE WOMEN.

FRANKLY SPEAKING, I'D BE FINE WITH WHOEVER.

I WOULD FEEL AT EASE IF THERE WERE MANY WIVES.

I CAN'T ALLOW A DANGEROUS WOMAN

INTO THE FAMILY!

SO WHICH ARE YOU,

MISUZU-SAN?

64

99

end

DO YOU HAVE SUSPICIONS ABOUT ME?

THAT... IS WHAT I WANT TO CONFRM

AS A REPRESENTATIVE FOR THE WIVES.

!

MISUZU NAKAMURA -SENSEI.

I CALLED IN A FAVOR FROM A CONTACT,

AND HAD HIM FIND OUT ABOUT YOUR FORMER NAME.

AN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TEACHER WHO STABBED HER HUSBAND.

Elementary school teacher Misuzu Nakamura arrested on the charge of attempted murder for stabbing her husband

I CAN'T BELIEVE A MURDERER COULD HAVE GOTTEN IN HERE...

I DIDN'T KILL HIM.

THIS IS ABOUT YOU, ISN'T IT?

HMM?

IF YOU'RE GOING THERE WITH THIS, I WOULD HOPE YOU LOOKED INTO IT THAT FAR.

IT WAS PROVEN JUSTIFIABLE SELF-DEFENSE, AND I WAS FOUND NOT GUILTY.

64

AND I DON'T DOUBT YOU WERE FOUND NOT GUILTY.

JUSTIFIED SELF-DEFENSE, HUH... WELL YOU DO HAVE CUSTODY OF YOUR CHILD,

BUT STABBING... THAT'S A HORRIBLE THING TO DO.

DO YOU THINK IT'S NORMAL THAT A PERSON LIKE THAT WANTS TO GET MARRIED

AGAIN?

WHAT IS IT YOU ARE REALLY AFTER?

EVEN IF 10 YEARS HAD PASSED IT STILL WOULDN'T BE ENOUGH.

THIS NEWS ARTICLE IS FROM TWO YEARS AGO.

IF IT WERE ME, I WOULD HAVE TO DECLINE.

FINALLY CAUGHT YOU---

.....

gasp

gasp

gasp

NO WAY I COULD GO FULL BLAST AND STILL LOSE TO A 4-YEAR-OLD...

NO, IT'S DEFINITELY BECAUSE OF THESE SANDALS...

wheeze

pant

AAAH... GUESS I'M OUTTA SHAPE...

RSERY

HOLD ...

ON...

HUH!!!

tripping off

HIIII
VIII
MOM.
URSERY
URSERY

ZIP!!!

HERE.

JUST A LITTLE BIT MORE AND...

AAAH

FU FU

YES, IT'S TRUE THAT I DON'T WANT TO GET MARRIED.

BEING BOUND TO THAT ONE PERSON,

YOU MUST HAVE SUFFERED GREATLY.

NO.

IT'S BECAUSE I WAS MARRIED TO A MAN LIKE THAT,

THAT MY LIFE HAS BEEN SO THOROUGHLY SCREWED UP.

I AM TREATED COLDLY WHER-EVER I GO,

SO I CANNOT GET ANOTHER JOB.

WELL, IF I WERE THE ONLY ONE WHO HAD TO LIVE WITH IT, PERHAPS I DESERVE IT.

BUT

I SUFFER, EVEN NOW.

SO I'LL GO WITH POLYGAMY.

I THOUGHT THAT WITH ONE HUSBAND AND MULTIPLE WIVES, THE HUSBAND WOULDN'T LASH OUT WITH VIOLENCE WITH THE EYES OF THE OTHER WIVES ON HIM...

BUT MIKU HAS A RIGHT TO A DECENT LIFE!

I DON'T NEED LOVE.

AS LONG AS THERE ARE RULES AND RULES THAT ARE FOLLOWED,

IT DOESN'T MATTER WHO I'M

RYUU -CHAN?

YOU SHOULDN'T BE UP THERE! GET DOWN!

AT THE VERY BEGINNING, YUZU SAID PRETTY MUCH THE SAME THING...

SHE SAID ANYONE WOULD BE FINE.

御船祭

YOU TWO ARE SO ALIKE.

!?

AND NOW SHE'S BECOME SUCH THE PRECIOUS WIFE.

How did that happen?

LISTEN, YOU!

SHE HAD NO HOPES OR EXPECTATIONS FROM ME, FROM MARRIAGE, OR ANYTHING.

WOULD YOU MARRY SOMEONE TO SAVE ANOTHER?

HA HA

NOT AT ALL.

YOU MAY HAVE BEEN... BENT... BUT

I THINK HARE-KONS WERE CREATED FOR PEOPLE LIKE YOU.

I'M ONLY INTERESTED IN HOT BABES.

I HATE DOING CHARITY WORK...

WHAT KIND OF EXPRESSION WOULD YOU HAVE?

THAT'S WHAT I WANT TO SEE.

WHEN YOU TAKE OFF YOUR DISGUISE AND LIE DOWN BEFORE ME,

MY HUSBAND'S SOMETHING OF A PERV.

I CAN GET AROUND SMOOTHLY WHILE SANDWICHED BETWEEN YUZU AND KOHARU -CHAN.

AREN'T I?

KEEP A PROPER HOLD ON THE LADDER!

I can get pissed, you know!

WELL,

HE'S NOT A BAD PERSON...

A little warped though

A HARE-KON

ISN'T AS BAD AS YOU THINK.

MIKU...

AND YOU'LL GET MORE BABY-SITTERS.

MOMMY.

MISUZU-SAN?

IT'S YUZU!

HUH?

SHADDAP, YOU--

EEEH? MISUZU -SAN LOOKS SUPER-PRETTY TODAY!

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

EH? WHAT?!

ONEE -SAMA?

gentle touch

IT'S AN ADULT CONVER-SATION!

RIGHT, ONEE -SAMA♡ ♡

U fu fu

O ho ho ho

THEY'RE LIKE... SISTERS?

!?

Ho ho...

YES, THAT'S RIGHT... KOHARU-SAN MAY STILL BE A LITTLE YOUNG FOR THIS.

Y... YOU'RE GIVING HER BAD IDEAS, AREN'T YOU YUZU???

WHO, ME? NOT AT ALL...

LIAR!!!

MISUZU -SAN WAS A TOTALLY DIFFERENT CHARACTER YESTER-DAY!!!

.....

IT'S ABOUT TIME.

LET'S GO.

HARE-KON

Please support the Mangaka
when this work becomes available
in your region!!!

HEY!

OH REALLY? THEN I'LL PICK ONE OUT♡

WHILE I'M AT IT, GUESS I SHOULD GRAB ANOTHER WIFE.

DON'T SAY "WHILE I'M AT IT".

AND NOW!

LET'S GO!

IT'S ABOUT TO START.

AT A HARE-KON FESTIVAL, THE CONFESSIONS ARE FROM THE LADIES!

IF HE THEN TAKES YOUR ROSE, IT'S A DONE DEAL!!!

WHEN THE NUMBER OF YOUR INTENDED MAN IS CALLED, PLEASE COME UP ON STAGE AND HOLD OUT A ROSE.

BEGIN!

IS THE FINAL STAGE, LOVE CONFESSION TIME.

THE TIME HAS COME.

ALL THAT'S LEFT

stark silence
シーン……

ENTRY #1.

EH... THEN LET'S GET STARTED.

THOSE CONFESSING TO THE "FARM FAMILY PRINCE", SADOU-SAN!

Damn

Here ya go

NO WORRIES!

muttering
えっ

WHOA, THERE'S THREE PEOPLE!

Satou...
サトウ…

SUBARU

THOSE CONFESSING TO SATOU-SAN, COME UP ON STAGE!

ENTRY #2, THE SELF-STYLED "MITO, THE SHOOTING STAR".

SATOU-SAN CURRENTLY HAS TWO WIVES,

SO HE MAY SELECT UP TO TWO FROM THOSE HERE.

SO...

FIRST OFF...

FOR CHOOSING YOURS TRULY... THANKS.

grab

BUT!

IT MUST BE THE ONLY WOMAN I WAS CERTAIN OF FROM THE MOMENT I LAID EYES ON HER!

A TRUE GODDESS!!!

PLEASE ENTER INTO A HARE-KON WITH ME!!!

CONGRAT-ULATIONS!!!

THESE TWO WILL NOW BEGIN DATING AS A PRELUDE TO MARRIAGE!

clap clap

AND SHE'S THE MOTHER OF TWO KIDS.. SHE'S SMOOTH

Whoaa

MARIN IS SO HAPPY♡

IT IS DONE!

ENTRY #3.

RYUU -CHAN'S #33.

WE'VE GOT SOME TIME TO KILL.

HUH?

IS THIS REALLY A GOOD THING?

MIKU-CHAN.

EARLIER I ASKED

DO YOU WANT MOMMY TO GET MARRIED?

MAYBE THAT WAS .. TOO DIRECT?

DUNNO...

SHE'S ALWAYS SAYING SHE'D HATE IT.

MIKU...

JUST WANTS MOMMY TO BE HAPPY.

SOMEHOW I GOT TO WHERE... I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S RIGHT.

MOTHER SACRIFICES FOR DAUGHTER

AND DAUGHTER FOR MOTHER.

THEY'LL DECIDE FOR THEM-SELVES.

MMM...

THERE'S NOTHING THERE FOR YOU TO BE TROUBLED WITH!

TRULY LOVING ONE ANOTHER.

AREN'T THEY A FINE PAIR!

FROM NOW ON, I TOO WILL

THINK ABOUT FAMILY A LITTLE MORE.

I'M... SORRY.

I ALWAYS

THINK ONLY ABOUT MY OWN FEELINGS.

大源

HUH?

!

NO, NOT FOR-GIVING YOU.

I REALLY HATE THE FEELING WHERE YOU THINK YOU CAN APOLOGIZE AND THAT PUTS AN END TO IT.

BLURTING OUT STUFF WHEN YOU FEEL LIKE THAT.

WHAT'S WITH THE "I'M SORRYYYY"?

JUST KIDDING!

Pfft

YOU'RE FINE JUST THE WAY YOU ARE RIGHT NOW.

YOU'RE REALLY ANNOYING!

WHAT ARE YOU SUDDENLY GETTING ALL WEIRD FOR!

bap

IT'S NOT LIKE I EVER HAD ANY EXPECTATIONS OF YOU TO BEGIN WITH.

YUP.

JUST TO BE CLEAR, I WAS SAYING HOW I DISLIKE YOU, RIGHT?

YOU UNDERSTAND?

YES, I LOVE YOU.

I LOVE YOU...

YUZU!

.....

SUC--CESSSSS!!!

おおっ Whoaa!

CONGRAT-ULATIONS!!!

ARE THESE TWO!

THE ONES CHOSEN AMONG THE MARRIAGE HOPEFULS FOR #28

IT'S AS THOUGH THEY'RE PROMISED THE LIFE OF A CELEBRITY!

I'm sooo jealous!!!

NO DOUBT, THIS YEAR'S QUEENS OF THE HARE-KON!

OKAY, WE'RE FINALLY DOWN TO OUR LAST TWO PRINCES!

FIRST UP,

ENTRY #33, "GOLDFINGER". THOSE WISHING TO CONFESS TO HIM

COME UP ON STAGE!!!

ER, NO, NO, THERE'S SIX PEOPLE!

IT'S NARROWED DOWN BEYOND EXPECTATION?

OH?

4" muttering

NOW THEN!

WHO WILL BE CHOSEN?

CHOOSE...

YOU!

I...

MISUZU TACHIBANA-SAN, PLEASE MARRY M-...

HUH?

HM?

EH---

MISUZU TACHIBANA -SAN?

AH... IS SHE HERE?

POR FAVOR

101

end

WH...
WHAT IS
THIS?

WHICH MEANS HE...

HE WAS TURNED DOWN?

NO WAY.

A WITH-DRAWAL?

IS THAT WHAT YOU'LL BE HAPPY WITH?

WHY?

WHAT A DEVELOP-MENT...

CAN THIS HAPPEN?

grin

!!

AN... OLD WOUND...

URK

WHAT'S WRONG?

!?

UWAAA

SOME-BODY STOP THIS---

W... WELL THEN,

WILL YOU CHOOSE FROM THESE SIX HERE?

MIKU -CHAN!

I-

I'M SORRY...

PAUSE

MOMMY IS...

THAT'S JUST HOW SHE IS...

SORRY FOR ALL THE FUSS!

KOHARU, TAKE CARE OF RYUU-CHAN!

!

I'LL GO AFTER HER!

. . . . . .

EASY FOR YOU TO SAY...

b

b

MISUZU
-SAN!!!

VROOM

I'M... SORRY.

IT WAS NOT MEANT TO BE.

LOOKING AT THOSE PEOPLE, I THOUGHT

THERE'S NO WAY MOMMY COULD BE IN A HATE-KOM

THAT'S FINE.

TOTALLY.

EVEN THOUGH MIKU-CHAN DID HER BEST... WE'LL GO BACK TO HOW WE WERE BEFORE.

WHAT'S WITH HER?

ISN'T IT STRANGE? NOT EVEN A REASON FOR TURNING ME DOWN?

WHY?

WHAT?

I DON'T KNOW WHAT THIS MEANS.

WHAT DOES THAT WOMAN WANT TO DO?

YUZU AND I DID MANAGE TO PATCH THINGS UP BETWEEN US!

WELL...

SCARYYY.

gripe

gripe

gripe

ALL IN ALL, EVERYTHING TURNED OUT OKAY IN THE END, AND ISN'T THAT FINE?

AND I LEARNED A LOT...

mumble

IT'S NOT THE LEAST BIT FINE.

OKAY!!!

I'LL BE PROACTIVE ABOUT IT!!!

THE NEXT TIME,

NEXT TIME SOMEONE APPEARS THAT RYUU REALLY WANTS TO MARRY,

I'LL CHEER YOU ON!!!

OH?

IT'S THE TRUTH!!!

LIAR.

I CAN DO IT!!!

THERE YOU GO AGAIN, TOSSING AROUND THINGS YOU CAN'T DO SO EASILY...

THEN DO IT STARTING RIGHT NOW.

SUPPORT ME FROM THE BOTTOM OF YOUR HEART.

.....!?

HUH?

TH-THAT'S NOT...

THE TRUTH IS, ALL THIS TIME I'VE WANTED URARA-CHAN AS MY WIFE.

RYUU-SAN! WELCOME!

YO, URARA-CHAN.

TODAY ONCE AGAIN, YOU'RE SO UNSPEAKABLY CUTE.

I'll give you this.

WON'T YOU MARRY ME?

!

OKAY...

O...

HM?

URARA -CHAN?

You're kidding, right?

JUST KIDDING!

Ehe JUST A HARE-KON JOKE♡

IT'S GONNA TAKE SOME TIME BEFORE HE COMES BACK FROM THIS...

Oh dear...

あーあ…

RYUU?

HUH?

THE 2ND HARE-KON FESTIVAL

JUST GOTTA DO OUR BEST TOGETHER.

WELL, FOR NOW THE THREE OF US

ENDED WITH... 25 WOMEN MARRIED.

102

end

HARE-KON

Please support the mangaka
when this work become available
in your region!!!

YOU'RE RIGHT...
IN MY EXPERIENCE, AT TIMES LIKE THESE, THE MOST EFFECTIVE THING IS...
HE'S LIKE THAT AGAIN!
WHAT TO DO?
EVEN THOUGH I FINALLY FOUND HIM A GOOD JOB.

BREASTS!

GOTTA GET YA SOME BREASTS.

YES.

103

The Woman
and Her Breasts

AND EVEN THOUGH I TOLD HIM EVEN IF IT'S JUST A TEMP JOB

HE'S GOTTA GIVE HIS ALL AT DOING SOMETHING ABOUT IT AT LEAST

WHY BREASTS?

ピアニスト

!

GYAA?

B...

BREASTS!

GIVING THEM A MAJOR RUBBING!!

MM

SO WARM...

pant

AHN...

NO...

SHE'LL BE BACK SOON...

grope

grope

MMH

grope

HAA

WOULDN'T THAT BE JUST FINE?

AHN!

MM-GEEZ...

grope rub

YUZU...

YOU'RE SO WET.

RYUU-CHAN, YOU'RE...

SURE IN HIGH SPIRITS TOO...♡

TH...

THIS IS

RYUU -CHAHAN ♡

AHHAN!

pant...

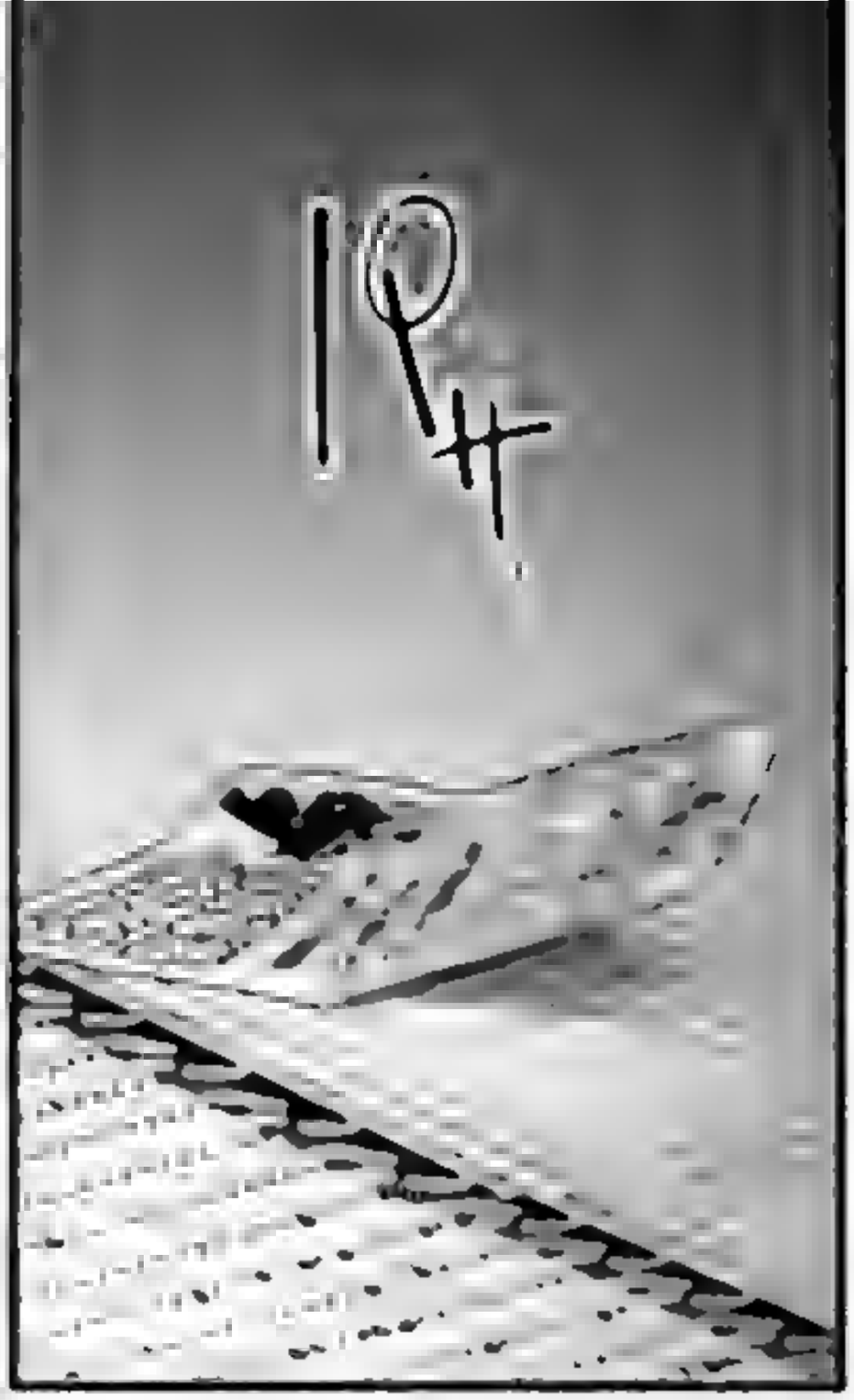
ANGHN

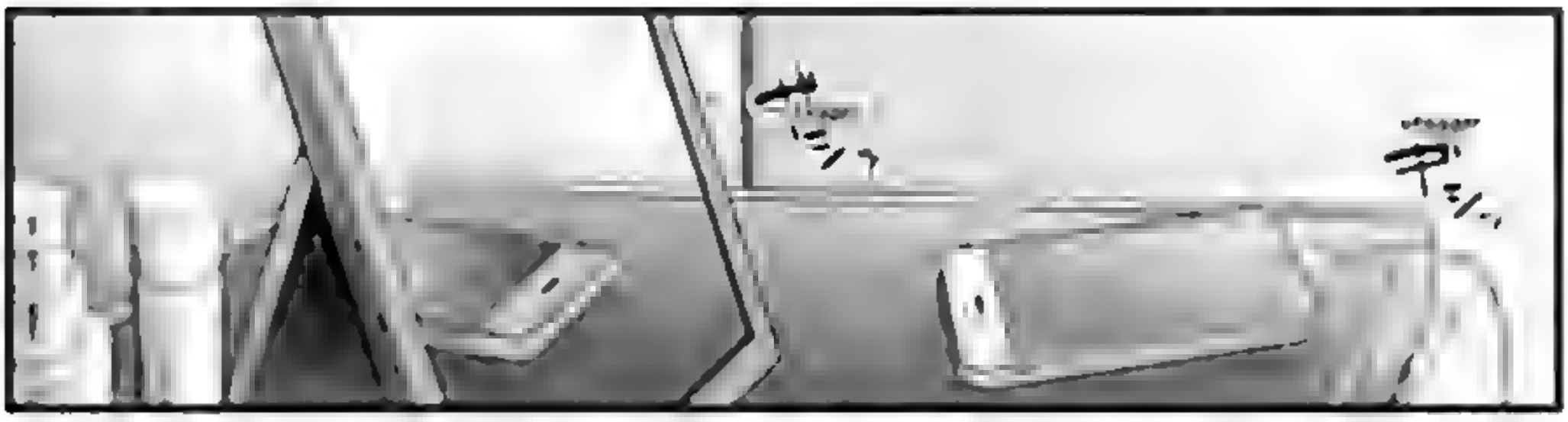
pinch

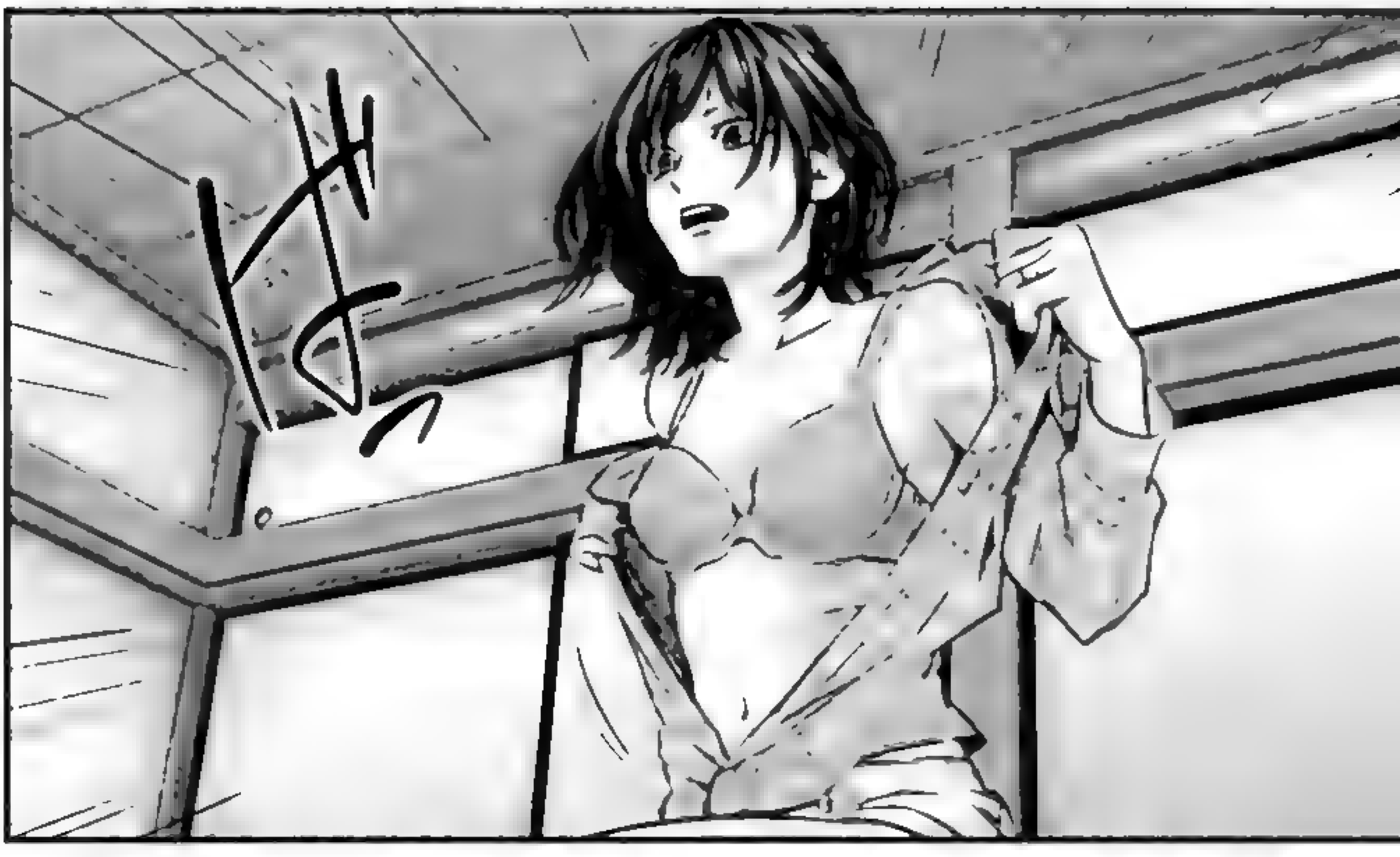
THE PURE POWER OF BREASTS!!!

AHN...

NO♡







NOTH-
ING!!!

creak

creak

MY WHOLE LIFE...

I CAN'T DO ANYTHING...

SOB... WHINE...

NOTH- ING-

NO BREASTS AT ALL...

THAT'S WHAT REALLY MAKES RYUU HAPPY...

creak

I MEAN, THEY'RE THERE.

creak

creak

NO, NO...

WHAT IS IT ABOUT BREASTS?

creak

THEY'RE NOT THAT BIG A... DEAL...

creak

creak

THAT'S WHAT THE HOLSTEIN WIFE IS THERE FOR, RIGHT?

THERE'S NOTHING I NEED BE TROUBLED OVER...

creak

creak

creak

IF HE WANTS TO GROPE SUCH HUGE BREASTS, HE CAN GROPE THEM!

SENPAI!

HAVING TO CARRY AROUND SUCH BIG ONES IS A PAIN, RIGHT?

THAT'S RIGHT, NO NEED AT ALL.

THAT'S NOT WHERE SENPAI'S ALLURE IS!

IT'S SOMETHING THAT WEIGHS THAT MUCH ON YOUR MIND.

ANH

creak

creak

creak

creak

I TRULY LOVE YOU.

KOHARU -CHAN...

RYUU♡

I WANT REAL TITS TOO!!!

JUST LIKE THAT! WORTHY OF PRAISE!!!

BRING ME SOME WATER~

.....

HM?

PIANIST

URGENTLY NEEDED

PIANIST URGENTLY NEEDED
TO PLAY PIANO AT A
LIBRARY MINI-CONCERT!

I'M HOME...

A FEW DAYS LATER.

GOOD WORK♡

WELCOME BACK——

SPLURGING... AGAIN...

HIS LIVE MUSIC PERFORMANCE AT THE LIBRARY WAS A GREAT SUCCESS.

EVEN THOUGH YOU DON'T HAVE A JOB!

BUT RYUU -CHAN DID WORK TODAY ♡

FOR NOW I'LL KEEP AT IT.

THERE ARE THINGS I'LL WANT IF I'M GOING TO LIVE AS A PROFESSIONAL.

EH? THAT...

SOME GOOD JOBS MAY COME OUR WAY♡

AND WE MADE CONTACTS TODAY.

MHM

IT'S BECAUSE YOU GAVE ME THE OPPORTUNITY.

IF YOU HAD THE WILL TO WORK, YOU SHOULD'VE DONE THIS SOONER.

FANK... YOU.

HMM?

I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN, BUT

.....

IT'S ALL GOOD.

BUT...

YOU CAN'T ESCAPE.

grope もみっ

YOU WANTED THEM BIGGER JUST TO MAKE ME HAPPY, RIGHT?

SO BEAR WITH IT.

grope もみっ

grope もみっ

grope もみっ

LOOK, YOUR NIPPLES ARE STANDING UP.

DON'T YOU KNOW THE PHRASE "THE PATH TO BREASTS IS NOT TRAVELED IN A DAY"? YOU HAVEN'T HEARD IT?

THAT TICKLES...

YOU WERE SO CONCERNED ABOUT IT.

grope もみっ

grope もみっ

grope もみっ

SO I WANTED TO HELP YOU MAKE 'EM BIGGER.

IN IT'S OWN WAY---

Mmf よっ

5K

BEING BIGGER IS A PAIN.

Oop ぽっ

5K

Knack ドサッ

AWWW

THIS IS GREAT!!!

ひょこ

TATAMI MATS WITHOUT A SINGLE SMUDGE ON THEM!!!

MY LONG-HOPED FOR SUNROOM!!!

RESTORED SLIDING SCREENS OF PURE WHITE!!!

THAT'S RIGHT!

AND LAST BUT NOT LEAST, THE ROOM'S HIGHEST MERIT IS...

IT GIVES OFF MADOKA'S NICE SCENT ...

IT'S THE GREATEST

WINDOWS OF UNBROKEN GLASS...

IT'S COM-FORTABLE!

HERE I WON'T HEAR SOUNDS FROM NEXT DOOR.

IT WON'T REACH ME!

WELL IF YOU'RE THERE, I CAN'T HEAR YOUR VOICE, EITHER.

IT'LL BE SO LONELY---

OH, BUT!

.....

MAYBE KOHARU WOULD PREFER IT THAT WAY ♡

On dear

THAT STILL BOTHERS YOU?

I THOUGHT FOR SURE YOU'D GOTTEN USED TO IT.

HOW COULD I GET USED TO THAT?

ゴロ～ flomp

IT'S LIKE IT'S BEGGING FOR ME TO SAY.

I'M MAKING THIS MY ROOM.

FOR THE TIME BEING IT'S OKAY SINCE WE'RE NOT EXPECTING MORE WIVES.

THAT'S RIGHT! AFTER ALL THAT "POOR MADOKAAA" YOU SAID.

NO.

BUT, KOHARU -CHAN...

YOU SURE YOU'RE NOT AGAINST SPENDING TIME WITH ME IN HERE?

RIGHT NOW MY HEART

FEELS RATHER LIGHT

I WANT TO LIVE LIFE MORE RESOLUTELY!

I WON'T GET CAUGHT UP IN THE AFFAIRS OF OTHER WOMEN ANYMORE!

MAYBE DEALING WITH THIS STUFF HAS MADE ME_

STRONGER?

SAY... SORRY ABOUT THIS KOHARU, BUT COULD YOU GO BUY SOME MISO FOR US?

I'M BORROWING THIS MANGA.

IS THAT SO?

LIKE, NOW?

I CAN'T HEAR THEIR VOICES SO IT'S FINE!

A FEW TREMORS REACH HERE BUT

I DID SO WELL PUTTING UP WITH IT FOR HALF A YEAR...

HUM...
ドーン
IT APPEAR-ED!!!
!?
HAAAA

HOLD ON... WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU...

IT'S... A GHOST!!!

URF

!! JUMP !!

SOMETHING APPEARED!

GET OUT, GET OUT!

NOPE NOPE NOPE NOPE!!!

A GH-

THERE WAS A GHOST!!!

A GHOST APPEARED.

SO CUTE...

IT WAS REALLY THERE!

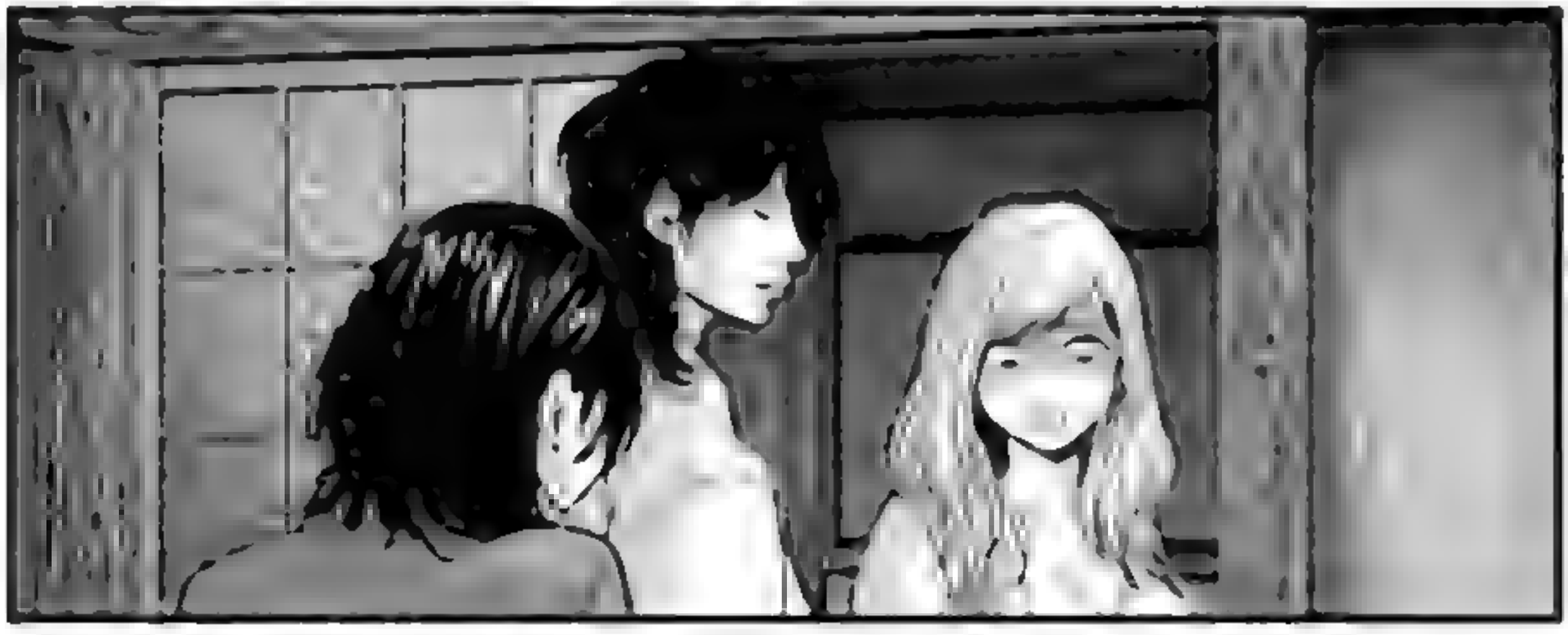
IT WAS!

THERE'S NOTHING HERE.

DIDN'T YOU JUST DREAM IT?

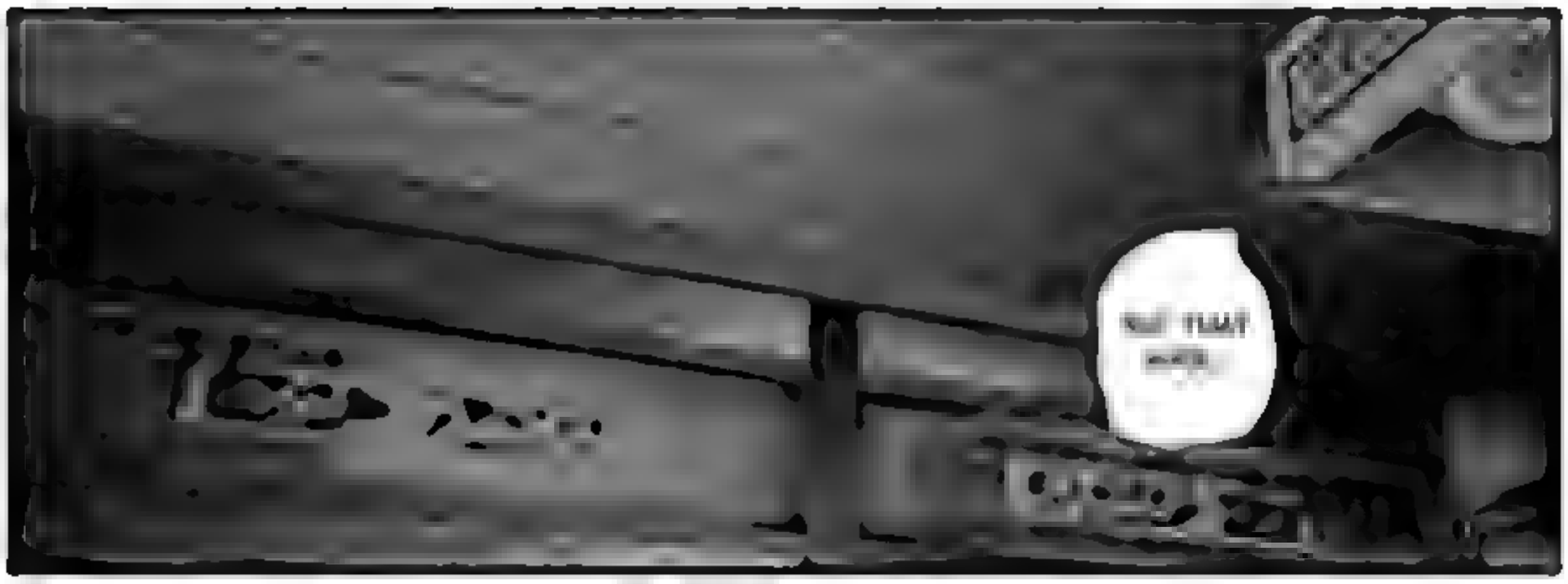
I WAS AWAKE...

ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE SLIDING DOOR!



M-
KYAAA!
HUH? WHAT?

WHERE AM I?


A SPECTER OF SOME SORT

LET'S MOVE OUT!

STUPID, WE DON'T HAVE THAT KINDA MONEY!

SPEAKING OF MADOKA... I WONDER IF SOMETHING'S HAPPENED TO HER...

HUHHH?

HAH? YOU'RE TURNING IDIOT ON US NOW?

IT'S A PHYSIO-LOGICAL PHENO-MEMON.

YOU'RE GETTING AROUSED?

HOLD IT, WHAT'S SO ST-

Well

C-CAN WE CALL HER?

I'M NOT AT EASE WITH THIS EITHER, YOU KNOW?

CUT IT OUT.

LISTEN, YOU TWO...

NEW RULE! "DON'T TALK ABOUT A WOMAN GONE"!

HOW LONG WILL YOU KEEP MENTIONING MADOKA?

DIDN'T YOU SAY YOU WOULDN'T GET CAUGHT UP IN THE AFFAIRS OF OTHER WOMEN?

WHAAAT? IT WAS THERE! RIGHT YUZU?

IT... MIGHT HAVE BEEN YOUR IMAGINATION.

HUH-HH?

WOULDN'T YOU BE HAPPIER IF YOU DID IMAGINE IT?

WELL YEAH, BUT...

SHUT UP!

I'M TALKING ABOUT A GHOST!

I'M NOT TALKING BOUT A WOMAN WHO'S NO LONGER HERE!

THERE'S NO GHOST.

You imagined it.

WELL---

YUP, IT'S BETTER I BE IN THE ROOM I'M USED TO BEING IN!

STUFF LIKE TAPE, AND SPOTS.. MAYBE I'M FOND OF THEM?

I'LL GO GET THE SALT!

.....

AH! GOOD IDEA!!!

WHAT ABOUT THROWING SALT?

Ha ha

end

I'M LEAVING.

KO-HARU!

NNH?

I-IT'S BAD... RYUU-CHAN... TODAY IS...

HIS BIRTH-DAY!!!

105

The Woman Who Misses

FEBRUARY 2ND.

I'VE BEEN SO BUSY LATELY IT SLIPPED MY MIND.

It was on the registration...!

I HAD NO IDEA.

YOU CAN'T TELL HIM.

NO WAY!

WE CAN'T.

A CAKE WOULD BE NICE.

HOW... IT CAN'T BE HELPED.

LAST YEAR JUST AFTER GETTING MARRIED, I WAS THE ONLY ONE WHO DIDN'T KNOW HIS BIRTHDAY,

AND MADOKA WAS STILL UNSOCIABLE...

I WAS TEASED MERCILESSLY FOR IT!

To Ryuuno-kun

PAIN IN THE ASS.

AND I SAID "NEXT YEAR I'LL THROW YOU A GORGEOUS CELEBRATION♡"

SHE SURE IS ONE TO HOLD A GRUDGE...

Tenaciously

LET'S HURRY UP AND GO! GOTTA BUY A PRESENT!

HUH? BUT I HAVE TO WORK THE SHOP.

GET YOUR MOM TO STAND IN FOR YOU! THIS IS A FAMILY CRISIS!

NU-HH-H?

mou
IT'S ALMOST VALENTINE'S DAY
THERE'S A LOT OF GIFTS FOR MEN!
AH!

THERE'S A NEW SHADE OUT♡

OH, IT'S SO PRECIOUS... I WANT!

Valentin Day

ウズ

ウズ

EXCUSE ME... MRS. DATE?

I JUST WANTED A LITTLE PEEK—

OH LOOKIE! THESE HEELS ARE WICKEDLY CUTE!

HEY, WHO ARE YOU? THE LADY WHO SAYS CRAZY THINGS?

DID I TAKE THE DAY OFF FROM WORK TO GO WINDOW SHOPPING?

YES, YES, I UNDERSTAND...

OH, REALLY?

THIS IS KINDA FUN.

RA Cafe

MAYBE IT'S OKAY... ONCE IN AWHILE?

WELL, STILL

SHALL WE DO LUNCH? I WANT TO EAT THE MOST DELICIOUS PASTA♡

OH, BUT I AM FEELING A BIT PECKISH...

ESI HA DAI

IT'S ON MY PHONE.

HUH?

RYUU IN SHORT HAIR? I WANNA SEE!

LEMME SEE! LEMME SEE!

FWAAA——— HE LOOKS... NORMAL!

THIS WAS ABOUT 5 YEARS AGO.

I SNUCK IN THIS SHOT♡

OMF ISNT HE CUTE?

AT TIMES LIKE THESE, IT'S LIKE HE'S A YOUNGER BROTHER I CAN'T IGNORE...

LIFE IS STRANGE...

Oh my.

HUSBAND-SHARING♡

SEND IT TO ME TOO.

Fine with me♡

THANK YOU FOR WAITING.

WOW, IT LOOKS DELISH♡

ALL THAT TIME BEFORE I CAME ALONG, THOSE TWO GOT ALONG SO WELL...

HURRY!

WE'VE GOTTA GET THE DISHES SET UP BEFORE RYUU-CHAN GETS BACK

Y-YEAH...

AND ERASE ANY SIGNS OF THE USUAL DISHES!!!

AND SURE ENOUGH, SHE'S TAKING THIS TOO FAR

HE'S HERE!!!

HAPPY

BIRTHDAY♡

HERE'S A PRESENT!

FROM THE BOTH OF US!

HM?

YEAH...

THE MEETING MUST HAVE WORN YOU OUT♡

TO PUT HIM IN A SPECIAL MOOD, SHOWY IS BETTER.

Plus he'll want you naked later anyway! whisper

whisper

EVEN AFTER I TOLD YOU THERE WAS NO WAY I WAS DOING A "NAKED-APRON"!!!

whisper

A PHONE.

THANK YOU!

TODAY THEY ASKED ME FOR MY PHONE NUMBER.

WHOA... THIS IS A LIFESAVER!

SO I WAS JUST THINKING HOW IT'D BE HARD NOT HAVING ONE,

I WAS KIDDING ♡

NO... IT'S FINE.

WANT GPS ON IT?

Happy Birthday♡

Cool

WOW— IT CAN EVEN RECORD SOUNDS.

AS WELL AS APPS WE THOUGHT YOU'D LIKE.

WE PUT IN YUZU AND MY NUMBERS,

LET'S GO.

ONE, AND TWO, AND ♡

POP

!

WE'VE GOT CHAMPAGNE TOO!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY♡

TO...♡

ONE, AND TWO, AND

OH, YEAH... OKAY!

HUH?

DOING IT ALONE COMES OUT WRONG.

YOU SING TOO, YUZU!!!

HAPPY BIRTH-DAY♪♪♪

HAPPY♡

TO-OO...

HUH?

SHALL WE...
SING IT
AGAIN?

HA-
PPY
HAPPY
BIRTH-
DAYYYY
PPY♪
STOP!!!
KYAAAAA!
1000
UMM, THAT WAS YOUR SINGING VOICE...
WHAT?
WHAT WAS THAT JUST NOW?
YUZU...
NO WAY!!!

!

YOU'RE TONE-DEAF!

...

HOW CRUEL.

EVEN THOUGH I DID IT PERFECTLY!

AND I WAS SPOT ON...

YOU'VE KEPT THAT HIDDEN FOR THESE FIVE LONG YEARS.

IT'S HOPE-LESS NOW...

EVERY-THING'S OVER.

HAP-PY

CUT IT OUT!!!

100

HARE-KON

TL\N: I CANNOT DISCERN THE MISSING KANJI.

I DON'T HAVE ANY.

I WILL GIVE THEM TO MY FRIENDS

AREN'T THERE A LOT OF BOYS WHO'D LOVE TO RECEIVE URARA-CHAN'S CHOCOLATE?

EEEH?

C'MON, IT'S YOUR LAST VALENTINE'S DAY AS A HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT, RIGHT?

.....

AND DON'T PUSH YOURSELF TOO MUCH AT YOUR JOB, OKAY?

WELL... YOU ARE STUDYING FOR ENTRANCE EXAMS.

YEAH...

TESTING TO GET INTO TOKYO NATIONAL, RIGHT?

HUH? MATSUHASHI -SENPAI!

I JUST HAVE MORNING PRACTICE.

I KINDA DIDN'T WANT TO COME TO SCHOOL...

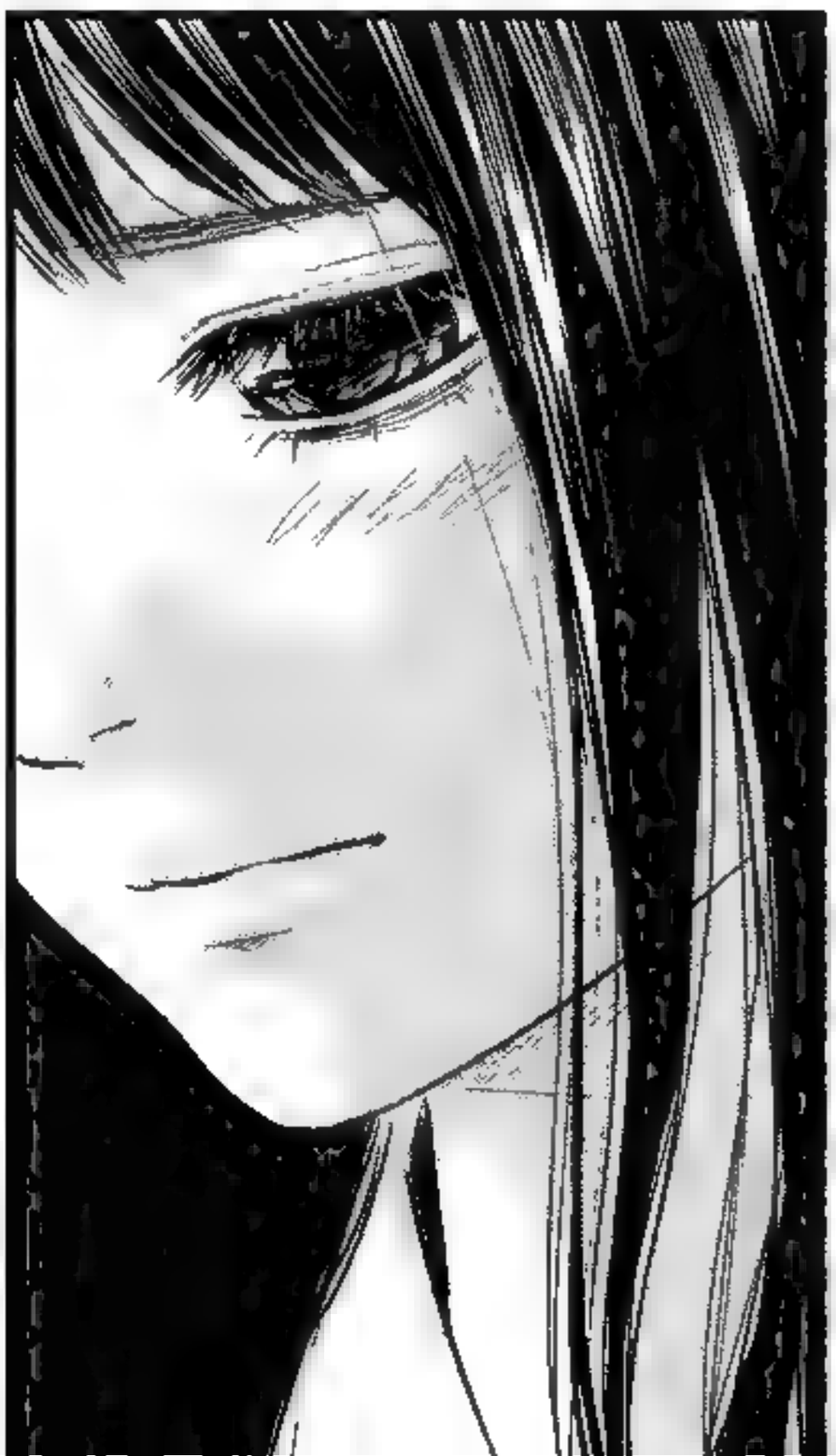
GOOD MORNING!

MORNING.

AREN'T THE THIRD YEARS TAKING THE DAY OFF TODAY?

106

The Maiden In Love



KAEDE-CHAN!

HOW NICE♡

FLUTE-JK BY THE WINDOW.

Flash

!

AH... BUT MAYBE I COULD SELL THEM TO URARA?

GEEEEZ! AND I TOLD YOU NO PICTURES WITHOUT ASKING FIRST!

I WON'T SELL THEM TO THE BOYS...

IT'S FINE, IT'S FINE.

A PRETTY SHOT FOR THAT ONE YOU LOVE!

OF COURSE NOT!

Geez,
like I care!

Sowwyyy.

I'M GETTING MAD!

CAN I SHOOT THAT?

She's mad, she's mad.

SERIOUSLY!

ALREADY GRADUATING NEXT MONTH...

KAEDE-CHAN, YOU'RE GOING TO TOKYO SENMON, RIGHT?

YUP!

I'VE ALREADY FOUND A ROOM! KINDA CRAMPED THOUGH.

BUT AN INDIVIDUAL BATH/TOILET FOR ONLY 50,000.

RIGHT IN FRONT OF A PARK AND A CONVENIENCE STORE NEARBY!

HOW NICE...

COME AND STAY.

I... CAN'T GO TO A UNIVERSITY AFTER ALL.

YESTERDAY MY FATHER FOUND MY EXAM STUB,

HE WAS SOOO MAD

WELL, I TOO HAVE THINGS I WANT TO DO SO GETTING INTO A HIGH LEVEL SCHOOL ISN'T GOING TO HAPPEN

IT'S OKAY

HUH

YOU CAN'T EVEN TAKE THE TEST?

so strict

WELL IF I REALLY THOUGHT THAT I WOULD LOSE ALL MOTIVATION TO STUDY.

TOKYO JUST ISN'T IN THE CARDS FOR ME, IT SEEMS.

.....

JUST KIDDING.

I SEE...

SAY,

THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW IS VALENTINE'S DAY!

YOU SHOULD CONFESS♡

IT'S OKAY, ISN'T IT♡

N-N-N-N-NO WAY!!!

WH... WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?! STOP IT!

GEEZ... HOW MANY TIMES DO I GOTTA SAY IT?

AT LEAST AT THE END OF YOUR HIGH SCHOOL CAREER, YOU GOTTA MAKE A HAPPY MEMORY.

MATSU-HASHI?

THAT'S JUST HOW IT IS.

WHAT'S GOING ON?

AND CLASS 2'S URASAWA... AM I RIGHT?

THE 3RD YEARS ARE OFF TODAY.

HM?

MORNING PRACTICE, IS IT?

YOU'RE AN HONOR STUDENT TO THE VERY END

STOP THAT I'M STILL ONLY 28,

OLD MAN REEK.

CALLING ME AN OLD MAN IS TAKING IT TOO FAR.

YOUR FEET!

HEY, TEACH, WHAT'S THAT.

REFRESHING, AREN'T THEY?

MATSUHASHI.

IT'S OKAY TO TAKE A BREATHER, BUT

IF YOU'RE TESTING FOR NATIONAL, YOU MUSTN'T GET CARELESS.

SO IT LOOKS LIKE SHE WANTS TO CONSULT WITH A TEACHER ABOUT IT!

URARA HAS TROUBLES ON HER PATH,

HUH?

THAT SO?

AS YOUR HOMEROOM TEACHER I WANT TO BE A PART OF THAT, BUT

IF IT'S THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW

SHE CAN BE THERE!

THERE'S A STAFF MEETING STARTING NOW...

HOW ABOUT TOMORROW? CAN YOU COME THEN?

OKAY, THEN THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW, COME BY THE TEACHERS OFFICE IN THE MORNING.

I SEE.

"IT'S A PRIVATE LESSON♡"

WELL. COME ON, JUST WHAT IS IT ABOUT THE OLD GUY THAT'S GOOD?

DEFINITELY NOT HIS FEET CUZ THEY STINK.

And such an unpleasant expression

HUH?

HIS EARS ARE LIKE THIS...

ISOHARA
いそはら

I JUST DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT, AT ALL.

YEAH...

KINDA CUTE.

LIKE A MONKEY'S.

PLEASE. STOP TEASING ME.

"I LOVE YOU TOO, MATSUHASHI".

AFTER ALL, ISN'T SENSEI

ALREADY MARRIED?

end

Valentine's Day

LOVE IN THE PALM O

KAEDE-CHAN ENJOYS SPOUTING THAT WEIRDNESS!

I'M JUST CONSULTING ABOUT MY FUTURE PATH, THAT'S ALL.

NO, NO.

YOU SHOULD CONFESS ♡

THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW, COME BY THE TEACHERS OFFICE IN THE MORNING.

doki

doki

doki

BUT...

IT WOULD BE RUDE NOT TO BRING SOMETHING.

HE'S LOOKING OUT FOR ME, AFTER ALL...

NOTE: NAMEPLATE SAYS MATSUHASHI

松橋

Valentine Fight
A chocolate in hand special issue

Y-YES MA'AM...

GASP

YES?

URARA?

open

YOUR FATHER WANTS TO TALK TO YOU.

107
The Farmer's Daughter

I JUST HAD TO DO SOMETHING

IT SURE IS TO A YOUNG ONE TODAY

THIS KIND OF THING WASN'T ALL THAT RARE IN OUR DAY, BUT

I SEE SHE'S THE ONLY DAUGHTER OF A FARMING FAMILY

WHO'S HERE?

I UNDERSTAND WHAT TERMS DID YOU HAVE IN MIND?

WHAT ARE THEY TALKING ABOUT?

...

IT SEEMS HE WAS QUITE UPSET THAT YOU WERE TAKING ENTRANCE EXAMS...

EVEN YOUR GRANDMOTHER'S BEEN SAYING YOU SHOULD SETTLE DOWN SOON.

HE'S SEEING A GO-BETWEEN NOW.

YOUR FATHER IS SETTING UP AN OMIAI FOR YOU.

YOU HADN'T HEARD?

I WAS TOO OPTI-MISTIC...

I'M SORRY. IT'S YOUR MOTHER'S FAULT.

I THOUGHT YOUR FATHER MIGHT ALLOW YOU TO GO TO TOKYO IF YOU GOT ACCEPTED TO NATIONAL...

S-SO... A SUDDEN OMIAI...

IT'S NOT TRUE IS IT?

I'VE ALWAYS HOPED FOR A SON-IN-LAW TO INHERIT THE MATSUHASHI FAMILY...

SO...

I... AM KEEPING MY FAMILY IN MIND.

I ALREADY GAVE UP ON TOKYO.

MAYBE SO!

I SEE...

I'M SORRY, URARA.

I GET IT.

I DIDN'T WANT YOU TO HAVE TO DEAL WITH FAMILY ISSUES...

I'LL JUST LISTEN IN.

IT'S FINE

BLAM!

IT'S NOT FINE.

I CAN'T ACCEPT IT!!!

A SWEET, GENTLE, ANGELIC GIRL LIKE THIS SHOULDN'T BE FORCED INTO A MARRIAGE OF CONVENIENCE.

NOW THAT I WANNA SEE!!!

DON'T YOU HAVE A PHOTO OF THE GUY?

I SAID IT'S NOT FINE!!!

IF THE PERSON IN QUESTION IS FINE WITH IT, THEN ISN'T IT FINE?

bap

HE SAID I'LL BE INTRODUCED TO SEVERAL PEOPLE NEXT WEEK...

NOT YET.

SOMEHOW.

ISN'T IT THE POPULAR THING? OMIAI MARRIAGES?

ISN'T EVERY-ONE'S CASE DIFFERENT?

NOT SOME-ONE YOUR PARENTS CHOSE FOR YOU?

THE PERSON URARA-CHAN REALLY, TRULY, DEEPLY FELL IN LOVE WITH!

WILL THIS REALLY MAKE YOU HAPPY?

YOU MIGHT LATER MEET A GREAT GUY OUT THERE.

COULDN'T YOU MARRY FOR LOVE?

BUT...

THIS WAY WILL MAKE MY FAMILY HAPPY.

WHAT A DOTING CHILD!!!

SO YOU CAN HAVE YOUR ROMANCE WITH THE ONE YOU LOVE LATER?

WHAT IF YOU JUST GO AHEAD AND GET MARRIED NOW,

YOU PIECE OF SHIT...

KOHARU-CHAN... DON'T YOU WANT URARA-CHAN TO BE HAPPY?

IN THAT CASE, IS HER PASSIONATELY PURSUING THAT WHICH WILL MAKE HERSELF HAPPY

SUCH A BAD THING?

URARA-CHAN IS THINKING OF THE HAPPINESS AROUND HER.

IT CAN'T BE THINGS THAT WOULD MAKE THOSE AROUND HER UNHAPPY!!!

GRRRR...

OH DEAR...

IT IS SPLENDID...

AND THAT'S WHY SHE'S GOING THROUGH WITH THE OMIAI.

how splendid of her.

IT'S JUST THAT I

I DO NOT WANT TO DISAPPOINT MY PARENTS.

WAS RAISED IN COMFORT, AS THE ONLY DAUGHTER OF A FARMING FAMILY.

AND I'VE JUST WANDERED DIRECTIONLESS, NOT FINDING WHAT IT IS I WANT TO DO.

BUT **AS A** VIRGIN?

...?

VIRGIN...

A MOST UNFORGIVEABLE DEVELOPMENT!

Is that not the case?

ALL THE MORE REASON TO...

SACRIFICING ONE'S HELPLESS DAUGHTER TO SOME DUBIOUS, UNKNOWN MAN...

A VIRGIN?

HUH?

I-IS THAT SO?

m-

pending

doom

YOU STILL HAVEN'T?

URARA -CHAN...

N-

NEVER.

N-NO...

EVEN A KISS?

WHAT?

I'M SORRY.

.....

WELL THEN, I SHALL BEAR THE RESPONS-IBILITY,

ND TEACH KARA-CHAN E JOY OF BEING A VOMAN.

IS THERE SOMEONE YOU LIKE?

WHAT?

THERE IS, RIGHT?

EH... ERM...

OKAY!

What?

She's got a guy?

SO THEN, BEFORE YOU GET MARRIED,

WOULDN'T IT BE GREAT TO GET A KISS FROM HIM?

WHAA-AAAA-AT?

OR WOULD YOU RATHER IT BE WITH SOME-ONE YOU'RE NOT IN LOVE WITH?

IT'S OKAY! YOU'RE CUTE! ANY GUY WOULD GO FOR YOU!!!

THAT'S NOT...

NO WAY I COULD!

shake shake

NO!

shake shake

YOU CAN!!!

NO NO NO I CAN'T! I CAN'T!!!

THAT'S HOW IT IS.

WELL... IT'S...

!!

THAT'S NOT IT... UM...

H-HE... HAS A WIFE, AND...

WHO CARES IF HE HAS A WIFE?

!?

HE'S... MARRIED?

KOHARU-CHAN, WEREN'T YOU CALLED THE "HUSBAND-HUNTER" OR SOMETHING?

THIS AND THAT ARE TOTALLY SEPARATE THINGS!

BE-CAUSE...

WHY NOT?

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? YOU CAN'T DO SUCH A THING SO EASILY!!!

I BROUGHT IT.

doki

doki

doki

Today's Omake

~NON's working environment~

Hello there. NON here.

Thank you so much for getting Hare-kon volume 11

When I was thinking about what to draw

HEY.

FEED ME.

I put my everyday scene into a single panel

Just as a mangaka

Z Z Z

That's all

The end

For information on the latest works, or anything at all, go here ➡ Twitter 『@non620126』

PLEASE SUPPORT THE MANGAKA BY PURCHASING THIS WORK WHEN IT BECOMES AVAILABLE IN YOUR REGION.

別宅

神田家07

作：手塚だい

神田保は独りで震えていた。

夜の海風で身体が冷えたワケじゃない。つい今しがた、大好きな筈の嫁に告げた敗北宣言を思い出し、今になって震えてきたのだ。

「なんてことを言ってしまったのだろう」

此処は、先程まで京子と話していた防波堤から然程離れていない、海沿いの神社の石段。彼はまるで捨て台詞のように「京子の旦那は務まらない」と告げ、足早にその場を離れてしまったのだ。

しかし、家に戻って真奈に詮索されたくもない。何より京子が帰って来て顔を合わせるのも、京子が帰って来ないのも恐ろしくて仕方がなかった。故に行き場を失った保は、この暗く寂しく肌寒い石段で、独り言と思案を巡らせていたのだ。

「自分でも驚くほどアッサリ言えたもんだ」

保は自分を情け無く思っていた。どんなに愛想を尽かされようと、会話がなかろうと、他の嫁を連れて来られようと、自ら敗北を宣言する事はないと思っていた。しかし、京子の話を聞いているうちに、ふとそんな答えが浮かんでしまったのだ。

それはまるで天啓のようで、実にしっくりくる答えで、故に何の迷いも無く出た答えだった。

「自分でも解ってたんだ」

保は自分を不憫に思っていた。京子との結婚生活に幸せはない。自分を幸せにしてやれないと結婚してから日々募らせてきた事だ。俺では京子を幸せにしてやれないかもしれないと彼女にも。その思いは、関係を変えてくれるかもしれないと期待していた。それでも、月日が二人のそんなの、他力本願の神頼みでしかないのに。

「頑張ったよ、俺」

保はいよいよ泣きそうだった。そもそも顔も生い立ちも三流の俺みたいな奴が、京子のように美人でイカした女子と結婚するなんて、全く想像していなかった。と言うより、自分が誰かと結婚するなんて、その眼を背けるように立ち去ってしまったのだ。京子がその時何を考え、その後どういう行動に出るのか、保には想像もつかない。

「京子のいない人生なんて……」

……。それは容易に想像出来た。むしろ、京子と添い遂げる人生の方が違和感があるのだ。

その自負は、保の持つ唯一の支えだった。京子との結婚が公になった頃、同じ属性を持つアルバイトの木村君に、「マジ、童貞の星っス」と、涙ながらに握手を求められた。

「それでも、あの時勇気を出して告白したから、奇跡が起きたんだ」

「告白なんて無料だよ可笑しくなってきた。

「俺と京子が夫婦!? マジか!?」

保がそう言うと、木村君は「かっけー」と目を輝かせ、復唱しながら走って行った。そう、俺にはそもそも高尚なプライドなどない。偉そうに講釈を垂れる程の経験もない。

なのに。保は先ほどの京子に垂れた講釈を思い起こした。随分と偉そうな事を言ったもんだ。そして、俺ってばこんなにも京子の事が好きなんだなぁと思った。

「もう京子は帰って来ないだろうか……」

保は京子を想った。俺如きにあんな風に言われて、彼女はどう思ったのだろう。保の脳裏には、あの時の様子が焼き付いていた。まるで、飼っていた犬が突然喋りだした時のように、目を丸くしていた京子。保が言い切った後も、何も言い返さず、表情も変えず立ち尽くしていた。いつもなら氷のような瞳に鋭利な言葉を添えて、俺を否定してくれるのに。保は京子のあのような眼を初めて見た。そして、その眼を背けるように立ち去ってしまったのだ。京子がその時何を考え、その後どういう行動に出るのか、保には想像もつかない。

保はそう呟き、腰を上げて石段を上った。

この神社は漁港の側にある、漁の安全を祈願した神社だ。子供の頃はここでよく遊び、よく怒られたりもした。頂上までたいした距離ではないが、久しぶりに上ると妙に遠く思えた。

息を弾ませながら、保は思案を続けた。

たしかに俺は、京子の事を何も知らずに告白した。皆の言う通りだ。俺は京子の事も女の事もよく解っていない。それは自信を持って言える。

だが、しかし。

どんなに相思相愛だろうと、男と女が心底解り合えることなんてあるのだろうか。

「俺はあいつのコトなら何でも知ってる」

絶対ウソだろ。と、保は思う。その辺り、保は冷めているというか、現実的だった。自分のコトも解らないのに、他人のコトなど、ましてや異性のコトなど解る筈がない。異性なんて保からしてみれば、異星人みたいなものだった。――でも、

「解らないから解ろうとするんだよ」

それが保の考え方だった。大事なのは知っている事ではなく、知ろうとする事。自分の物差しで誰かの人格を測る事なく、知らない事は知っている人に素直に聞く。勿論、京子の事も然りだ。

思いも寄らない展開で京子と結婚する事になった保は、職場のボスでもある彼女の父親に挨拶した後日、改めて質問してみた。

「何故、僕なんかと結婚するのでしょうか」と。

当然、京子にも同じ質問をしたが、「ただ、そこにいたから」と、クールな答えしか返って来なかった（保にとってその答えは、女性という生き物を一層難解にさせただけだった）。保は不安でいっぱいだった。何しろ得体の知れない生物と一緒に生活するのだ。彼にはそんな自信がなかった。

石段を上り終えると、鳥居の先に境内がある。惚れたハレたで告白はするが、結婚となれば話は別だ。保が京子の父に相談を持ちかけると、彼はもうすぐ頂上という所で、保は足を止めて突然身保を車に乗せた。そして、人気のない漁港に車を停め、見るからに重そうな口を開いたのだった。

「知らない方がいいコトだってあるぞ」

京子の父親にそう言われ、保はその事について考えた。そうだろうか。まぁ、そういうコトもあるかもしれない。でも、知らなきゃ良かったかどうかなんて、知らなきゃ分からない。保がそう言うと、京子の父親は声を出して笑った。

「そりゃそうだ」

彼は少しずつ語り始めた。京子が家を飛び出してから数年間、彼は毎日手掛かりを探していた。結構なお金と人を使い、ようやく所在を突き止めた時、娘は別人のように痩せ細っていた。そして彼は、割と危ない橋を渡りつつ、京子をあの白い男から奪い返したのだ。数年ぶりに家に戻って来た娘は、暫く部屋から出てこなかったが、ある日突然「お店手伝わせて」と、父親に言ったそうだ。

保はその話を聞いて、何故か涙が止まらなかった。まぁいい。注文のついでに聞いてみようと思い、メニューを開いた時だった。

「神田君」

保は驚いてメニューを閉じた。はて、何処かで見たような気もするが、全然誰だか分からない。

「えーと、何で僕の名前知ってるんですか？」

保は恐る恐る女性に聞いてみた。

「私はあなたのコトなら何でも知ってるよ」と、その女性は言った。

「へぇ～」と、保は口にした。

無性に愛おしくなり、涙が零れたのだ。

さっき京子から聞いた話と、以前、彼女の父親から聞いた話を重ね合わせながら、保は石段を上った。立派な木々が空を覆い、完璧に近い闇をが、この闇も嫌いな闇ではない。神聖な冷たさと懐かしい温かさが、保に安堵を与えた。

石段を上り終えると、鳥居の先に境内がある。もうすぐ頂上という所で、保は足を止めて突然身を潜めた。何やら声がするのだ。耳を傾けると、マンネリがどうとか。目を凝らすと、若そうな男女が抱き合っているようだ。普段なら暫く成り行きを見守っただろうが、今夜は心中穏やかにあらず。ため息を残して、静かに来た道を引き返した。

再び保は当てもなく彷徨った。時刻は・分から時刻も分からなくなった。やれやれ、俺は京子のコトばかりか、ファミレスで落としただろうか。このズボンを穿くと、よく携帯を落とす。保はそう言って気がついてから数年間、彼は毎日手掛かりを探していた。スに戻ることにした。どうせ行く場所もないのだ。結構なお金と人を使い、ようやく所在を突き止めた。店に入るや否や、店員に尋ねる間もなく席に案内されてしまった。まぁいい。注文のついでに聞いてみようと思い、メニューを開いた時だった。突然、目の前に誰かが座った。

「神田君」

保は驚いてメニューを閉じた。はて、何処かで見たような気もするが、全然誰だか分からない。

「えーと、何で僕の名前知ってるんですか？」

保は恐る恐る女性に聞いてみた。

「私はあなたのコトなら何でも知ってるよ」と、その女性は言った。

「へぇ～」と、保は口にした。

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ハレ婚。(11)

2017年3月1日発行(01)

著　者　　ＮＯＮ
©NON 2017
発行者　　森田浩章

発行所　　株式会社　講談社
〒112-8001
東京都文京区音羽 2-12-21

EBI-B2D119138BBD69B87F4C6166F57A7756FAE6B062FE486D87

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